

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2739

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 5715

NODIS CHEROKEE

STRICTLY EYES ONLY FOR EAGLEBURGER FROM TOON

E.O. 11652:

TAGS: PFOR, UR, IS

SUBJECT: SOVIET NOTE ON ISRAEL AND LEBANON

REF: TEL AVIV 5681

1. IN CONSIDERING OUR POSTURE IN LIGHT SOVIET REPRESENTATIONS CONCERNING ISRAELI NAVAL ACTIVITIES ALONG LEBANESE COAST, I THINK THE SECY SHOULD BE AWARE THAT WE HAVE EXTENDED INVITATION TO ADMIRAL TELEM, COMMANDER IN CHIEF, ISRAELI NAVY, TO CALL ON SIXTH FLEET COMMENDER AND OBSERVE UNDERWAY FLEET EXERCISES. TELEM PLANS TO DEPART TEL AVIV FOR GAETA SUNDAY MORNING. WHILE NO PUBLICITY IS PLANNED, OBVIOUSLY THIS SORT OF VISIT WILL NOT GO UNNOTICED, AND I FEEL STRONGLY THAT WE SHOULD DEFER INVITATION TO MORE PROPITIOUS TIME. AT VERY LEAST IT WOULD BE UNCHARACTERISTIC OF SOVIETS TO AVOID EXPLOITATION VISIT AS PROOF THAT NOT ONLY DE WE CONDONE ALLEGED ISRAELI BLOCKADE BUT WE ARE IN ACTIVE COLLUSION WITH ISRAELI NAVAL FORCES.

2. MOVE MAY HAVE ANCILLARY USEFULNESS IN CONTEXT POTENTIAL DUST UP IN THE SUEZ OVER AMOCO DRILLING OPERATIONS. ISRAELIS APPEAR DETERMINED FLEX THEIR NAVAL MUSCLE AND DESPITE OUR URGINGS INTERFERE WITH AMOCO OPERATIONS EAST OF THE MEDIAN LINE. CANCELLATION OF TELEM VISIT AT THIS TIME WOULD BE SEEN BY ISRAELIS AS EVIDENCE OUR DISPLEASURE OVER THEIR INTRANSIGENCE, AND WE WOULD DO NOTHING HERE TO DISABUSE THEM OF THIS IMPRESSION.

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3. IN VIEW OF SUNDAY MORNING DEPARTURE ADMIRAL TELEM, WE
SHOULD ACTO TODAY. IF DECISION IS TO POSTPONE VISIT, I ASSUME
DEPT. WILL INFORM SIXTH FLEET AS WELL AS TEL AVIV.
TOON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEMARCHE, NAVAL FORCES, CAT-C, CHEROKEE 08/20/76, TEXT NOT-TRANSMITTED TO ISO, DIPLOMATIC NOTES, NAVAL EXERCISES, MEETING REPORTS, BRIEFING MATERIA LS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TELAV05715
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P840114-1454
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760832/aaaabbqd.tel
Line Count: 65
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, ONLY
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, ONLY
Reference: 76 TEL AVIV 5681
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <15 JUN 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET NOTE ON ISRAEL AND LEBANON
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, UR, IS, LE, US, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006